

High School Exit Exam Standards Panel Meeting
Radisson Hotel, Sacramento
June 29, 2000
Minutes

Panelists present: Christine Aranda, Sally Baker, Leon Beauchman, Kathleen Blackwood, Angela Boyle, Kimberlee Breen, James Brown, Marilyn Buchi, Dan Condrón, Margaret DeArmond, Fernando Elizondo, Ted Erskine, Ana Maria Flores, Hal Geiogoue, Dave Jolly, Alice Kawazoe, David Marsh, Ella Miyamoto, Anthony Moye, Becky Reece, David Spence, and Marilyn K. Wulliger

Panelists not present: Sarah Adams, Nancy Avoy, Mary Bergan, Bill Cirone, Diego Davalos, Bob Douglas, Ben Flores, Jerry Flores, James Frost, Ana Maria Golan, Dave Gordon, Ruth Ann McKenna, Sharif Shakrani, Glen Thomas, Curtis Washington, Marilyn Whirry, Jim Wilson, and Mark Wilson

State Board of Education members not present: Marion Joseph and Monica Lozano

Special Education Liaison present: Kendra Rose

California Department of Education staff present: John Carey, Jan Chladek, Barbara Colton, Paul Michelson, Marion Miller, Lily Roberts, Phil Spears, and Paul Warren

American Institutes for Research staff present: Judy English, Stacey Livy, and Lishing Wang

Human Resources Research Organization present: Patrick Ford

James Brown, High School Exit Examination (HSEE) Panel co-chair, opened the meeting by welcoming panel members and reviewing the agenda. He proposed that to save money, future meetings last a day and a half and then the Panel have five meetings next year. The panel agreed and set upcoming meetings for July 26 and 27, 2000; September 27 and 28, 2000; November 29 and 30, 2000; February 28 and March 1, 2001; and April 25 and 26, 2001. A steering committee will be established to accomplish work between meetings. David Marsh, HSEE Panel co-chair, said that the July meeting will be critical because it will be panel's last chance to prepare the package that goes before the State Board in October. Mr. Brown invited questions, and panel members asked about opportunity to learn, field test logistics, and dissemination of HSEE materials from the California Department of Education (CDE) to panel members.

Jan Chladek, Consultant, CDE Standards and Assessment Division, noted that all panel members had been invited to Oakland to review fall 2000 HSEE field test items. Mr. Brown recommended that part of the July HSEE meeting also be set-aside for this purpose.

Judy English, Stacey Livy, and LiShing Wang from American Institutes for Research (AIR), HSEE development contractor, provided an update on the spring 2000 HSEE field test. Ms. English reported that the HSEE reading items and writing items, including the constructed response prompts, worked well, had proven fair to students, and had produced a good range of student responses. Ms. Livy said that in math the algebra function items worked best, number sense and math reasoning worked well, and Algebra I items were hardest for students. She said that after the fall field test, math will have a very good representation of items. AIR responded to panel members' questions about time allotted for the math test, the difficulty of certain categories of math items, grade levels of field test examinees, item statistics, special education accommodations, and field test follow-up surveys.

Phil Spears, Director of Standards and Assessment, CDE, reported on the Council of Chief State School Officers' meeting he recently attended and thanked the HSEE special education advisory group for their recommendations on accommodations. He said that the first report of the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) is due on July 1 and that copies should be sent to panel members by July 3. A more complete report is due on August 25. Mr. Brown asked for clarification on the topics the report covers. Paul Warren, Deputy Superintendent, CDE, said the report will indicate how students did on the field test, evaluate alignment to standards and curriculum, and indicate the extent to which students have had a opportunity to learn examination material. Patrick Ford, HumRRO; Paul Warren; and Phil Spears then responded to panel members' questions.

Jan Chladek asked panel members to review and develop recommendations regarding the HSEE communications materials in their packets. The panel broke into mathematics and language arts groups to work on these tasks.

At 12:00 the meeting broke for lunch.

After lunch, David Marsh brought the meeting to order. James Brown proposed that at the two-day July meeting, the afternoon and evening of the first day be used to review fall field test items and the next day be devoted to other issues. There were no objections.

The two groups reviewing the communications materials reported on their review and recommendations.

David Marsh explained that the afternoon would be devoted to special education accommodations. Kendra Rose, liaison from the special education commission to the HSEE panel, reported on recommendations developed by the special education workgroup convened to advise the HSEE panel on students with disabilities. She reviewed the panel's recommendations, their draft guidelines for making accommodations decisions, and a model of the decision-making process. Mark Fetler, special education consultant, CDE, noted that accommodations decisions must address, first, whether an accommodation should be provided and, second, which should be

provided. He also discussed the consequences of accommodations for the granting of diplomas.

Martha Thurlow, Director, National Center for Educational Outcomes, and Judy Elliot, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education, Long Beach Unified School District, spoke on federal law and special education accommodations. After inviting panel members to voice any concerns on the issue, the speakers discussed the purpose of accommodations, federal requirements for special education participation in assessments, the current level of knowledge about accommodations, factors to consider in selecting accommodations, and the role of educational accountability in accommodations. They said that good decision-making guidelines and training of IEP teams are critical, that a student's accommodations needs might change over time, that accommodations needs on high-stakes tests might differ from needs in class or on a lower-stakes test, that understanding the test construct and purpose are critical, and that an accommodation category of "other" would allow for unanticipated accommodations. After responding to questions, the speakers asked panel members to break into groups to review the special education work group's draft guidelines for accommodations decisions. Following their review the groups reported on their recommendations, and the speakers responded to these.

David Marsh invited public comment. The standards and assessment director of Pleasanton Unified School District urged that reports like those in Massachusetts rather than student reports alone be provided to districts. A teacher from Oakmont High School in Roseville asked whether the panel had a plan to address any public doubts about the rigor of the HSEE and about its alignment with school programs and asked also about the exam's relation to the GED test. A representative of ACSA recommended getting input into accommodations decisions from parents of special education students. It was also recommended that the HSEE exam be released following its administration to allow public evaluation of standards alignment.

David Marsh said that the July meeting would include a voluntary fall field test item review on July 26 and development of recommendations for the Superintendent on July 27. After thanking the panel for their work, Mr. Marsh invited their comments. Following panel comments the meeting was adjourned.